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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 IGA-02 L-03

H-02 EB-07 /053 W
---------- 048409
R 100834Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3583

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0298

STADIS//////////////////
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PAKISTAN

1. EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE PAKISTAN PORT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TRAINING PROGRAM IN FY-77 MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL. SATP FUNDING FOR PAKISTAN HAS FLUCTUATED SINCE 1971, BUT HAS NOT CHANGED TO REFLECT NEW MILITARY SALES RELATIONSHIP WE ARE FORGING WITH PAKISTAN AS RESULT OF LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO.

2. GOP APPRECIATES PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN SALES RELATIONSHIP AND HAS GENERALLY ACTED RESPONSIBLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN MAKING REQUESTS FOR ARMS PURCHASES. PAKISTAN ALSO APPREICATES OUR INTEREST IN HELPING IT MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS WITHIN ESTABLISHED POLICY GUIDELINES. AN INCREASE IN SATP FUNDING WOULD BE A FURTHER EARNEST OF OUR INTENTION TO COOPERATE, FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT, WITH PAKISTAN TO HELP ENSURE STABILITY IN SUBCONTINENT. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE CONCERNS ABOUT US SALES PROGRAM TO PAKISTAN BOTH IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND AT HOME AND BELIEVE THAT INCREASING SATP - A GNERALLY LOW-PROFILE AND NON-CONTENTIOUS PROGRAM - WOULD NOT CAUSE GRAVE CONCERNS IN THE AREA.
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3. MAIN JUSTIFICATION FOR INCREASE IN SATP FUNDING
IS THAT AS OUR MILITARY SALES PROGRAM GROWS, AND AS
PAKISTAN CONTINUES TO TURN TO US FOR PURCHASE OF
DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT, ITS TRAINING NEEDS WILL INCREASE
PROPORTIONATELY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT SINCE
THE GOP HAS NOT MADE ANY SIZEABLE ARMS PURCHASES FROM
US FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND IS CONSEQUENTLY NOT
FAMILIAR WITH MANY ITEMS THEY WILL BE BUYING. THE
PAK MILITARY HAS A REAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN
THAT THEY BE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY USE AND MAINTAIN
EQUIPMENT IT PURCHASE FROM US. PAKISTAN IS PAYING
ITS OWN WAY IN ITS US ORIGIN SALES PROGRAM AND
FULLY RECOGNIZES THAT GRANT EQUIPMENT OR CREDIT SALES
ARE NOT POSSIBLE. SATP IS THE ONE AREA WHERE AT
MODEST COST WE CAN HELP EASE THE FINANCIAL STRIGENCIES
INHERETN IN PAKISTAN'S MILITARY PROGRAM.
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